

AGENDA
SUISUN MARSH TECHCOMM MEETING

DWR, Environmental Services Office, Large Conference Room
9:30 am, October 26, 2000

ADMINISTRATION

1. Agenda Changes, Announcements, and Other Business
2. July 27, 2000 Summary
3. Next meeting: 9:30 am, Thursday, January 25, 2001
DWR, Environmental Services Office,
Large Conference Room

DWR REPORT

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 4. Water Quality Monitoring / SMSG Operation | Liz Cook |
| 5. Summer Monitoring Network Maintenance | Cassandra Enos |
| 6. 1998 and 1999 Annual Reports | Cassandra Enos |
| 7. 1999-2000 Annual Report to SWRCB | Callie Harrison |
| 8. SMSG Modification Test | Leslie Pierce |
| 9. SMPA Amendment Three | Kamyar Guivetchi |
| 10. SMPA ECAT Update | Terri Gaines |
| 11. Morrow Island Fish Screen Project (DWR portion) | Gordon Enas |
| 12. CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team | Chris Enright |

DFG REPORT

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 13. Island Slough Monitoring | Laurie Barthman Thompson |
| 14. Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Monitoring | Laurie Barthman Thompson |
| • 1999 Results | |
| • 2000 Activities and Report | |
| 15. 1999 Vegetation Survey Update | Laurie Barthman Thompson |

SRCD REPORT

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 16. Lower Joice Island Update | Steve Chappell |
| 17. Suisun Marsh Regulatory Group Update | Steve Chappell |
| 18. Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Study | Steve Chappell |

OTHER BUSINESS

**MEETING SUMMARY
SUISUN MARSH TECHCOMM MEETING
July 27, 2000**

DWR, Environmental Services Office, Large Conference Room

ATTENDEES

Larry Bahr, FSSD
Stephen Berger, RWQCB
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Cassandra Enos, DWR
Sarah Estrella, DFG
Mike Floyd, DWR

Terri Gaines, DWR
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR
Callie Harrison, DWR
Leslie Pierce, DWR
Eliza Sater, DWR
Laurie Barthman Thompson, DFG

ADMINISTRATION

Item 1 - Agenda Changes and Announcements

Mike Floyd's agenda item 11 will be moved to after item 4. Mike presented item 4 for Liz Cook. Kamyar presented item 9 for Chris Enright. Laurie presented item 13 for Patty Finrock.

Item 2 - April 27, 2000 Meeting Summary

No discussion or changes needed.

Item 3 - Next TECHCOMM Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2000 at 9:30 am, DWR Central District Large Conference Room.

DWR REPORT

Item 4 - Water Quality Monitoring/SWRCB Compliance Report

Mike Floyd (for Liz Cook):

The results of marsh channel water salinity monitoring efforts were reviewed for the period of February 2000 through May 2000. The results were viewed

"on-line" during the meeting at the following web page:

<http://iep.water.ca.gov/suisun/curr-report/monthlyReports/2000/FebMayComp2000.pdf>

The results show that channel water salinity levels in the marsh were far below marsh salinity standards. The relatively low salinity levels were attributed to high Delta outflow.

Discussion:

Monitoring/compliance reports are available on the Suisun Marsh web page. Select "Suisun Marsh Reports," then select SWRCB Monthly Compliance Reports, or directly at: <http://iep.water.ca.gov/suisun/curr-report/monthlyReports/>

Item 11 – Morrow Island Fish Screen Project

Mike Floyd:

A brief overview of the MIDS Fish Screen Project was given. The need for the project arose from a US Fish and Wildlife condition relating to maintenance dredging for the MIDS. It was explained that several "fish-friendly" alternatives for the project were evaluated including, but not limited to:

- opening up the MIDS to direct tidal flow;
- construction of a large screen facility at the MIDS intake;
- operation of the MIDS as a drain-only system and installation of distributed screens for adjacent properties; and,
- construction of a small screen facility at the MIDS intake and installation of additional distributed screens for adjacent properties.

The alternative with the small screen facility at the MIDS intake and additional distributed screens is referred to as the "Hybrid Alternative" (see Figure 1). This alternative was selected as the preferred alternative. Minutes for the April 27, 2000 TechComm meeting include additional information on the Hybrid Alternative. The attached schematic map describing the Hybrid Alternative was distributed at the meeting.

The overview discussion ended with a status report for the Hybrid Alternative. Environmental documentation and permitting activities for hybrid alternative are proceeding. Construction efforts for screens at the intake facility are tentatively scheduled to begin in May 2001 and completed by October 2001.

Discussion:

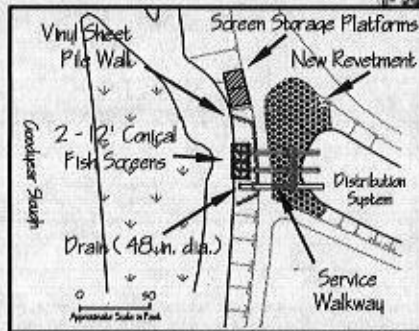
Terri added that she presented this project at the Suisun Marsh Regulatory Group Meeting. The Group had no concerns about the need for additional

Morrow Island Distribution System

Hybrid Fish Screen Proposal

System Intake
(expanded view*)

* schematic only--locations are approximate

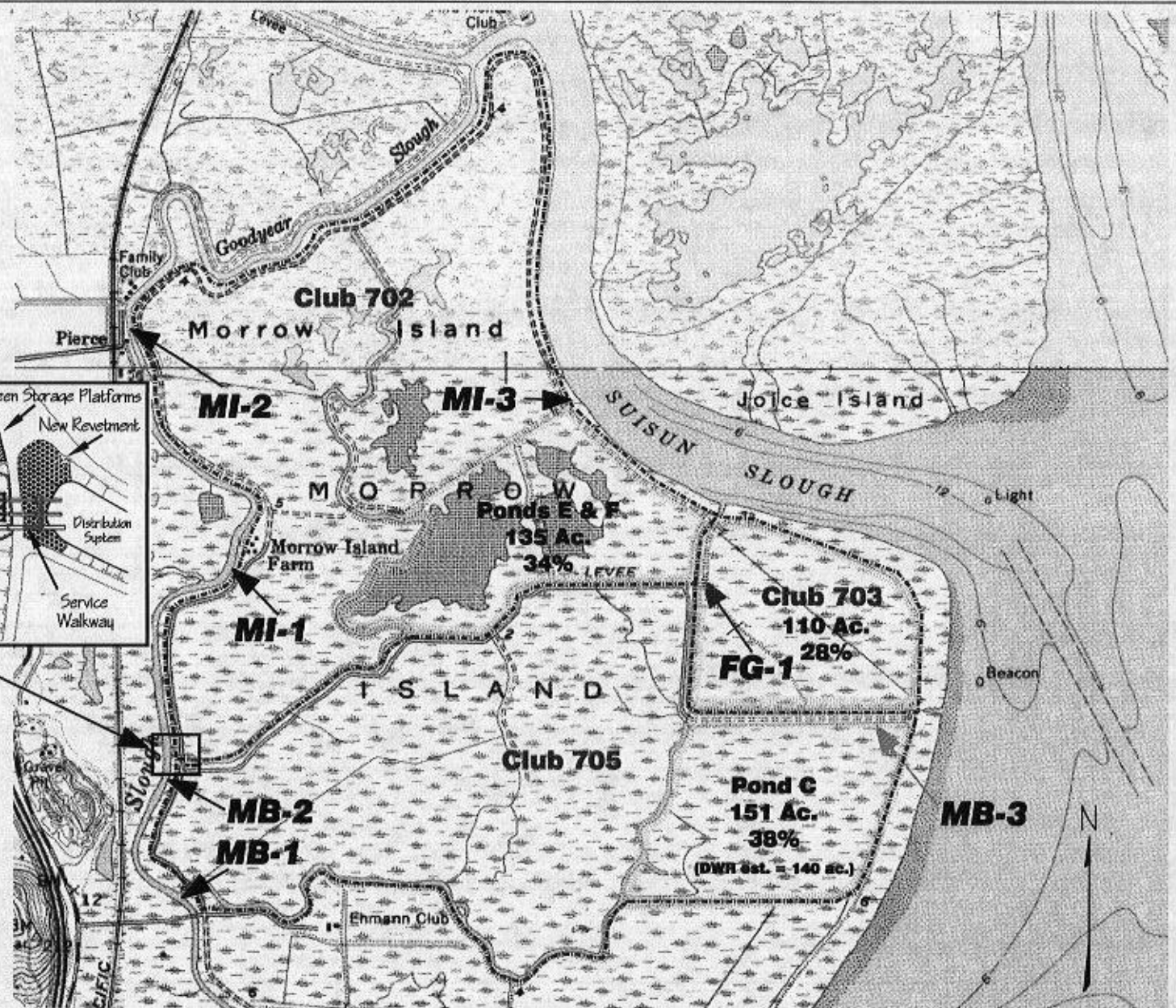


Legend

- Location of Distributed Screen (12-foot diameter conical fish screen)
- Location of New Fill Pipe (36-inch diameter)
- Location of New Drain/ Fill Pipe (36-inch diameter)

(MB-2) Item Identification

0 1000 2000
Scale (feet)



permitting. Mike Bradbury and Deborah O'Leary believe no BCDC or Corps permits, respectively, would be required for the project.

Item 5 – 1998 and 1999 Annual Reports

Cassandra Enos:

1998 Report

Final draft is almost complete. Working on finalizing the tables and figures. The report was re-formatted from previous years to place most of the detail and background information in the Appendices. Report should go to the editor next week.

1999 Report

Table of contents has been completed and assignments sent to staff. Draft expected by the end of August.

Discussion:

Kamyar noted that both of these reports will be available via the Web and an email distribution list. Hard copies can be mailed upon request.

Item 6 – SMSCG Modification Test

Leslie Pierce:

SMSCG Steering Group decided to postpone the 3rd year of the adult salmon passage study of the modified flashboards. Preliminary results from 1998 and 1999 indicate that the modified flashboards are hindering passage. The SMSCG Technical Team will spend the rest of 2000 completing the analyses of data from 1999, 1998, and evaluating 1993, 1994, 1998 and 1999 results as a whole. So far, only staff from DFG and DWR are participating in the Technical Team. The Tech. Team expects to have a draft report, which will include recommendations for future actions or studies, to the SMSCG Steering Group by the end of 2000.

Discussion: No comments.

Item 7 – SMPA Amendment Three

Kamyar Guivetchi:

Amendment Three was submitted to the USFWS for formal Consultation in Fall 1999. The Draft Biological Opinion, requested for completion in mid-February 2000, has not yet been released. However, Wayne White did say that it appeared some additional components would be required before his staff could finalize the draft BO. Ken Sanchez presented six measures at ECAT including the following:

- additional fish screen requirements,
- hiring of an endangered species manager to monitor landowner activities,
- additional details in management plans, and
- parties work towards meeting recovery goals of an additional 6,000-8,000 tidal marsh restoration.

Negotiators are scheduled to meet in August to further discuss the requested measures. The revised Amendment Three will then be re-submitted for Consultation with the request for a draft BO in Fall of this year.

Discussion:

Clarification was made on USFWS tidal marsh goals for the Marsh. At this time, they are 11,100 acres within the marsh, including 2,500 acres of SMHM habitat. The requested additional recovery goals acreage would be in addition to the 11,100 acres. Currently there are 6,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Marsh.

Item 8 – SMPA ECAT Update

Terri Gaines:

ECAT continues to meet monthly with participation from DWR, USBR, DFG Grizzly Island and Bay-Delta, SRCD, USFWS and USACE, San Francisco Bay Region. Topics discussed included SMPA Amendment Three and SRCD/DFG regional general permit Section 7 consultation, Suisun Marsh Monitoring efforts including SMHM and Vegetation Monitoring, Morrow Island Fish Screen alternatives. ECAT has developed an approved selection criteria for property acquisition for tidal restoration and is looking for available properties that meet that criteria.

In May, ECAT submitted a CALFED grant proposal for \$536,000 to acquire property in the Marsh for tidal restoration. If the proposal is accepted and

funded, these funds will be added to existing SMPA mitigation funds for multi-species benefit in the Marsh.

In the last couple months, ECAT has approved a six year monitoring plan for the SMHM and a monitoring plan for the Island Slough Wetland Development Area. Laurie will be discussing this in more detail.

We have been waiting for a draft biological opinion from USFWS since February 2000. In the last month we heard from USFWS that they want us to revise the project description to include additional measures to avoid a jeopardy opinion. The four parties need to decide whether to do this. As it stands today, USBR and USFWS are trying to work this out and develop a unified Department of Interior position on amendment Three to avoid jeopardy.

Discussion: No comments.

Item 9 - CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team

Kamyar Guivetchi (for Chris Enright):

Following the Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team's recommendation, CALFED recommended Suisun Marsh Levees' inclusion to the CALFED levee program in the Draft Framework Report released last month to landowners. The second and final Landowner Workshop took place July 24th to review the Draft Framework and was attended by approximately 50 landowners. Comments from the previous landowner workshop were reviewed and addressed.

Further details on how the Marsh Levee Program should work are being finalized. Key elements of the program include: a marsh-wide levee maintenance program, parcel acquisition criteria, emergency response, ongoing subventions, levee risk assessment process, and a funding source separate from that of the Delta levee program. At this time, the report is being finalized.

Discussion: No comments.

Item 10 – Suisun Ecological Workgroup Report

Eliza Sater:

A draft of the final SEW report was submitted to IEP for review in May 2000. Despite a two-month review period, no comments were received from IEP. Comments were received from Randy Brown on the Aquatic Habitat chapter. Once these are incorporated (within the next three weeks) the report will be formatted by Lauren Buffalo of ESO, and submitted to the SWRCB. It is expected that SWRCB will hold public meetings to receive comments on the SEW report after the report is submitted.

Discussion: No comments.

Item 12 - Vegetation Survey Update (1999 and 2000)

Cassandra Enos:

1999 Survey: Per Todd Keeler-Wolf

Field crew have moved to the marsh for field work in early June. They are working on field verification plots for the map (checking preliminary labels and delineations). So far they have visited 123 sites. They are also completing attributing the vegetation map. So far 17,500 polygons have been attributed with vegetation codes cover values, disturbance information, etc. More than half the map has been attributed. The final classification of last summer's field plots will be completed within the week, following the entry and the quality control of all plot data into a database. The final classification will be crosswalked to the preliminary classification and will be used to attribute all remaining polygons.

Field activity will be picking up this week resulting from assistance from CNPS and DFG volunteers from the Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch.

The final vegetation map is scheduled for completion by the end of December

2000 Survey:

Aerial photos of the marsh were taken on July 5th. Photos are expected back from photogrammetry by early August.

Discussion: No comments.

DFG REPORT

Item 14 – Island Slough Monitoring Plan

Laurie Barthman Thompson:

Construction is completed on pond 4. The levee between the parking area and pond 4 was the last to be completed. Water management is continuing for pickleweed irrigation. The area is flooded with and an immediate drain; the entire cycle takes about a week. This is the third cycle this year and will be the final one until water salinity increases at the end of the year. Pickleweed is present at the site.

An additional water control structure was placed for flooding in pond 7.

SMHM trapping will be conducted in August on ponds 4 and 7. Vegetation sampling will occur on these two ponds in conjunction with the trapping. Wildlife use monitoring is continuing.

The 1999 report should be completed within the next few months.

Discussion: No comments.

Item 15 – Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Monitoring

Laurie Barthman Thompson:

- 1999 Results
The 1999 report should be completed within the next few months
- 2000 Activities

Trapping surveys for the SMHM have begun. The Grizzly Island Wildlife Area: Pond 15, Benicia, Goodyear Slough Unit, Crescent Unit, and Pond 1 have been trapped so far. SMHM were found on all areas. Island Slough, Peytonia Slough, and Hill Slough will be surveyed in the next month.

Discussion: No comments.

SRCD REPORT

Item 16 – Renewal of USACE Regional General Permit

Steve Chappell:

The USACE Regional General Permit was signed 20 April 2000. Maintenance applications were received by the landowners from the Corps, submitted to Steve for review, and were then forwarded to the Corps by SRCD. The Corps agreed to review and authorize most work activities, so work is proceeding in the Marsh. There has been a delay of approximately 60 days from application submittal to work beginning.

Discussion: No comments.

Item 17 – Suisun Marsh Regulatory Group Update

Steve Chappell:

Monthly meetings took place June 8 and July 17, 2000 at Steve Berger's office. The Regulatory Group discusses specific projects in the Marsh and is a useful forum to clear up issues related to Marsh project development. The next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2000.

Discussion: No comments.

Item 18 – Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Study

Steve Chappell:

All field collections are complete and samples are being processed at UC Davis. A final report is anticipated in Spring 2001.

Discussion:

Kamyar noted that the study is being peer reviewed through IEP. He also encouraged submittal of the study results to the IEP newsletter and presentation at Asilomar next Spring.

Other Business

Larry Bahr:

Larry Bahr of the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District (FSSD) discussed the future expansion of the FSSD wastewater treatment plant to accommodate growth in the city of Fairfield. Larry emphasized that expansion plans are still extremely preliminary.

Additional discharges into the Marsh of up to approximately 15 million gallons per day could occur due to the expansion. This new discharge would occur during wet periods when high flows could not be accommodated with the present outfalls near Boynton Slough. Alternative discharge locations mentioned included Chadbourne Slough and Peytonia Slough.

FSSD is interested in collecting information and input from all relevant agencies and organizations regarding this upcoming project. Larry will keep TechComm up to date on this project as it moves forward.